AND THE WINNERS ARE:

The Department’s projects and staff have been honoured in recent weeks.

Dr Elizabeth Gemmill, University Lecturer in Local History and Director of our Weekly Classes programme, has won an Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) Teaching Award for ‘Most Acclaimed Lecturer’. An ‘Innovation in Teaching’ award was won by Dr Amanda Burls, Director of Postgraduate Programmes in Evidence-Based Health Care, and Marti Leimbach, tutor on the MSt in Creative Writing, was shortlisted for the same title. OUSU Teaching Awards are student-led, and aim to celebrate the University’s best educators. Dr Gemmill said, ‘Being able to share my passion for history is one of the joys of being an academic, and it is a privilege to teach students who are so enthusiastic about the subject and so committed to study as are those in the Department for Continuing Education. I am greatly honoured by the award.’ Please see: teachingawards.ousu.org

Dr Jonathan Healey, our new University Lecturer in Local and social history, is one of ten UK academics to have won the title of BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker 2012. This title seeks to identify early-career academics who have the potential ‘to turn their groundbreaking ideas into sensational broadcasting’. Dr Healey replaces Dr Adrienne Rosen as Course director of our very popular Advanced Diploma in Local History, a one-year, online Oxford award programme. His research encompasses English social and economic history from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, focusing on the long-term development of the English economy and state, on rural history, and on the history of popular politics. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/newgeneration

An Oxford Teaching Award of £5,000 has been given to Dr Kerry Lock for the creation of an online study skills seminar series. The project will commence with ‘Bite sized Statistics’. Modules will be available to students via their Virtual Learning Environment, allowing students to view topics at their own pace, and catering for a range of academic levels.

The East Oxford Community Archaeology project was a finalist for Best Community Archaeology Project 2012, one of just three contenders for the British Archaeological Awards title. The award honours projects which are driven by amateur archaeologists within the local community, contribute to public education, and have a strong research focus.

Summer Students 2012

This year we welcome 941 students from 55 countries on ten summer programmes.

The Department’s first ‘summer meeting’ was held in 1888 as a means of bringing students together for a period of intense study in Oxford. It’s a tradition we proudly continue to this day.

Our two largest summer schools offer a diverse range of topics as week-long classes. The Oxford University Summer School for Adults (OUSSA) offers accredited courses over four weeks at Rewley House. The Oxford Experience takes place over six weeks at Christ Church, one of Oxford’s largest and most beautiful colleges.

Smaller summer schools are devoted to individual topics, such as Creative Writing, English Literature, International Politics, Theology, and International Human Rights Law. These take place at Christ Church, St Antony’s, Exeter and New colleges. For more information on all our summer programmes, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/summerschools/

Summer Authors

Weekly classes tutors Liz Woolley and Hubert Pragnell have been chosen as our summer ‘tutor spotlight’ authors. Their recent books showcase Oxford from the viewpoints of fine art and local history. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/summerauthors

Events

Creative Writing prize-giving
24 July 2012, 6-7pm
Join Louise Watts, winner of our 2011-12 Creative Writing Contest, and members of the Oxford Guild of Printers (creators of this year’s prize) at a reception at Rewley House in Oxford. Please email: info@conted.ox.ac.uk if you would like to attend.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EMMA HOTEN

Concern about consumer behaviour drove Environmental Conservation student Emma Hoten to bring sustainable practice to the private sector.

‘I had been working in retail for ten years, and after working on introducing environmental products into a large retail organisation, I became more and more aware of the impact modern consumer behaviour was having on our environment.’

‘The Advanced Undergraduate Diploma in Environmental Conservation gave me the breadth of understanding I was searching for. I decided to leave retail and work for a small invertebrate conservation charity as Conservation Projects Manager, to learn as much as possible about habitats and endangered species. But ultimately it was the course that drove me towards a second change in career.’

‘I decided that moving back into the private sector and taking ownership for the sustainability of products that I was sourcing and buying would have more of a positive impact than anything else I could do. I now work for Travis Perkins and see sustainable building as key to making a change for future generations.’ Read Emma’s complete story online at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/environmentalspotlight

IMPROVING QUALITY, REDUCING COST

JISC, the UK’s leading authority on information and digital technologies for education and research, has produced a video highlighting the Department’s success in leveraging technology to improve the quality of provision in learning while reducing costs, via our ‘Cascade’ project.

Marion Manton, e-Learning Research Project Manager with the Department’s Technology-Assisted Lifelong Learning (TALL) team, said that Cascade ‘looked at all the ways we could use technology to help us do things more efficiently, improve the service that we offer to our students, or to allow us to do new activities’. See what it’s all about at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/jiscvideo

In the early 1920s a Royal Commission, formed to examine the changing face of adult education at Oxford and Cambridge, recommended ‘the establishment of a Centre or House for Extra-Mural Students, in as central a position as possible.’ In 1927 the University purchased Rewley House on Wellington Square to be Oxford’s physical base for Continuing Education. Rewley House began life in 1873 as a convent school, St Anne’s Rewley. The name was taken from Rewley Abbey, founded in 1280, which had been located less than a mile to the west. The continued popularity of short, intensive courses in Oxford motivated the creation of a residential centre at Rewley House – shown here being renovated, circa 1964. For more on the history of Rewley House, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/history/rewleyhouse.php

FUNDING UPDATE

Prospective students on award-bearing courses who do not already have a bachelor’s degree can apply for a loan to cover all or part of fees. Those with a degree (and those not wishing to apply for a loan) may, if on a low income, be eligible for a Departmental bursary. For details, please visit our funding web pages at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/sourcesoffunding

PRIZE DRAW WINNER

Congratulations to David Littlewood from Portugal, winner of our spring prize draw for a free online course. David has chosen ‘Origins of Human Behaviour’ as his prize. Another draw will be held this summer: to be eligible, please visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/oxforduniversity.continuing.education and click the ‘Like’ button.
PORTRAIT OF A CERTIFICATE

With nine subject areas to choose from, the new Certificate of Higher Education has attracted a diverse intake of high-quality applicants.

This highly flexible Oxford qualification lets students accumulate credit from online courses, weekly classes and our accredited OUSSA summer school, and apply it toward an Undergraduate Certificate. The equivalent of the first year of full-time study at University level, the CertHE is an excellent starting point for students embarking on – or returning to – education, as well as for those who wish to take their pursuit of a favourite subject to a higher level.

The 105 applicants for this year’s programme range in age from 24 to 74, and are resident in fifteen countries. Dr Elizabeth Gemmill, course director, said ‘I have been inspired by the careful thought that has gone into the applications and the unmistakeable appetite for learning which they display’.

Those interested in the Certificate may already be working toward their award: it is possible to import credit, up to a maximum of 30 CATS points, from OUDCE courses taken in the four years prior to registration. Applications for the 2013 intake will open on 1st December 2012. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/certheapplicants

WELCOME KATY DUFF

Katy joined the Department in April as Head of Development, to make a tangible contribution toward our students’ welfare and our programmes.

‘I started my working life fresh from university as a marketing assistant at Oxford University Press. If I’m honest, I didn’t really know that much about Oxford so it was a bit of a leap of faith for someone who’d never been out of Scotland for longer than three weeks at a time before. I very quickly grew to love the city and my work and was promoted to marketing manager at OUP.’

‘After six years I accepted a job working as a Campaign Executive for the University of Oxford. One of the areas of the University that I found myself most drawn to while working on the Oxford Thinking campaign was the Department for Continuing Education – I loved the feeling of openness and accessibility as well as the transformational impact the Department can have on the lives of its students.’

‘As a Department, our top priority is to ensure that all students who have the ability and desire to learn are able to study with us, whether they wish to undertake a day or weekend school, online course or part-time Master’s or DPhil. I feel strongly that education should be available for all, regardless of age, background or circumstance and am looking forward to making a difference in this area.’ Read Katy’s complete story at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/katyduff

EDUCATION ‘AS YOU LIKE IT’

Our new bespoke summer schools have a decidedly international flavour.

July’s Tsinghua University Summer School is a leadership course for 21 Chinese first-year university students in the sciences and engineering; the two Santander Universities Brazil Summer Schools, held in August, offer British Culture and Civilisation for 33 third-year students from Brazil’s leading universities, plus Contemporary English Literature and Professional Development for 11 university lecturers; and a summer school for Japan’s Keio University, held in August, comprises three courses in English for Academic Purposes and Contemporary European Politics, Environmental Studies and English literature.

These summer schools are directed by Dr Charles Boyle, our Director for British and Cultural Studies. Dr Boyle has recently been awarded the Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (with Distinction) and is currently writing a new book on Reading Assessment, to be published in 2013 by Oxford University Press.

The Department’s highly praised bespoke programmes are offered on a year-round basis for international groups. Subjects range from globalisation and environmental studies to contemporary European politics, and may be combined with specialist/academic English language classes and teacher development. For further information, please contact Judith Arneil: +44 (0)1865 270451 or judith.arneil@conted.ox.ac.uk.

BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The Department offers means-tested bursaries for students in need. Please contact your course administrator if you would like more information.
IN BRIEF


Annette Lord, director of our Leadership and Public Policy programme, has been elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the world’s premier society for the study and dissemination of taxonomy and natural history.

Our Leadership and Public Policy team is preparing a programme this summer for legislators from Nigeria’s Delta State. Among the 50 delegates is the Speaker of the State Legislature, the Rt. Hon. (Engr) Victor Onyekachi Ochei. The programme will focus on leadership and governance.


Isabel Finch, Administration Assistant, Leadership and Public Policy, is a volunteer at the Olympics, assisting at Beach Volleyball events. Isabel says, ‘I know it will be hard work and long hours but I’m sure the experience will be totally worth it!’

CREATIVE WRITING

Maya Popa, second-year student on the MSt in Creative Writing, has been awarded a New York University Veterans Writing Workshop Fellowship, and has also won a Bella Abzug Leadership Institute Writer Activist Prize. Her year-long NYU fellowship offers a generous stipend in exchange for leading a weekly creative writing workshop for recent veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Bella Abzug Institute is devoted to teaching leadership, writing and debate skills to girls from inner-city communities. Maya has worked with the non-profit organisation for four years, and was invited to serve on the Board of the Institute this year.

The winner of this year’s Creative Writing Summer School prize draw for University Alumni is journalist Dina Gold, first woman graduate of Corpus Christi, who is writing a book about her family’s bid to reclaim property taken by the Nazis during WWII. Read Dina’s full story at: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cwalumni](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cwalumni)

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Ethical decisions and dilemmas lie at the heart of all research methodologies and practice. Three presentations explore ethics across three disciplines. Watch the video online at: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ethics](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ethics)

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

NEW MICHAELMAS ONLINE COURSES

- The First World War in Perspective [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V100-129](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V100-129)
- Archaeology in Practice [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-201](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-201)
- Introducing Mapping, Spatial Data & GIS → [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/F800-4](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/F800-4)

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY TECHNIQUES

Ongoing

Part-time, mostly online, graduate-level training programme: Postgraduate Certificate and new stand-alone modules available. [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/243](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/243)

MATHEMATICIANS AND THEIR GODS

15–16 September 2012

This weekend explores the historical intersection between mathematicians and theism, an area rich in culture and character. [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/G100-22](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/G100-22)

CHEVENING SCHOLAR

Foundations of Diplomacy student Gary Wong has been awarded a prestigious Chevening Scholarship. Chevening scholarships support study at UK universities for students with demonstrable potential to become future leaders across a wide range of fields, including politics, business, the media, civil society, religion, and academia. Gary will be returning to Oxford shortly to join the Department’s Foreign Service Programme.

Gary Wong, left, receives his award from UK Foreign & Commonwealth Minister Jeremy Browne.

TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Colleagues in the Department of Experimental Psychology seek volunteers for a study about how people think about others’ thoughts and feelings. They especially need people aged 30–50. For more details, visit: [users.ox.ac.uk/~mert1768/](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mert1768/)